



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
124 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for the schools and libraries universal service support program, known as the E-rate program, and the Commission's efforts to modernize the program. Your letter urges the Commission to continue funding web hosting as a priority one service within the E-rate program on the basis that web hosting plays a critical role in enabling schools to perform critical educational functions, such as community engagement, emergency communications, digital learning, and parental involvement. I agree that web hosting services are a valuable tool for school districts today and will continue to be after the Commission takes steps to modernize the program. The issue we face is how best to prioritize the limited E-rate dollars so that all schools have the necessary underlying broadband connectivity.

Prior to the changes we adopted on July 11th, approximately half of the program dollars went to non-broadband activities, including web hosting. In order to maximize funding for the principle goal – broadband access – the new rules are phasing out support for non-broadband services. Schools need this broadband to take advantage of digital learning technologies, and libraries need to provide their patrons with high-speed access to the Internet. I recognize that the E-rate program has previously supported a variety of services, such as web hosting. However, I firmly believe that, in order to meet educational needs, the E-rate program must place a priority on ensuring that every school in America has a high-speed broadband connection and high-speed Wi-Fi in every classroom, and we must allocate funds accordingly.

The *Order* adopted by the Commission at our July Open Meeting takes significant steps to address the Wi-Fi gap in America's schools. In addition to funds already available for this purpose, the *Order* utilizes savings associated with transitioning support from non-broadband services to broadband. Given that 40 percent of classrooms are not currently Wi-Fi-enabled, and nearly two-thirds of schools indicate that they do not have sufficient Wi-Fi capacity to meet their digital learning needs, it is critically important that we focus our limited program resources on connectivity, not just to the school or library, but to the student or library patron.

Thank you again for your interest in this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further concerns.

Sincerely,

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Lou Barletta
U.S. House of Representatives
115 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Barletta:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for the schools and libraries universal service support program, known as the E-rate program, and the Commission's efforts to modernize the program. Your letter urges the Commission to continue funding web hosting as a priority one service within the E-rate program on the basis that web hosting plays a critical role in enabling schools to perform critical educational functions, such as community engagement, emergency communications, digital learning, and parental involvement. I agree that web hosting services are a valuable tool for school districts today and will continue to be after the Commission takes steps to modernize the program. The issue we face is how best to prioritize the limited E-rate dollars so that all schools have the necessary underlying broadband connectivity.

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Tom Wheeler



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OFFICE OF
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July 22, 2014

The Honorable Robert Brady
U.S. House of Representatives
102 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Brady:

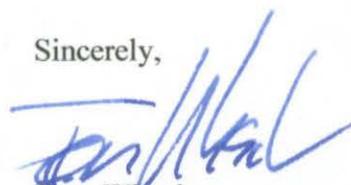
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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

The Honorable G.K. Butterfield
U.S. House of Representatives
2305 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Butterfield:

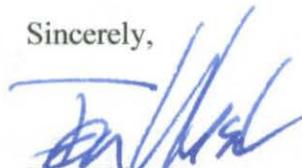
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Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



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OFFICE OF
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July 22, 2014

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
U.S. House of Representatives
1419 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cartwright:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for the schools and libraries universal service support program, known as the E-rate program, and the Commission's efforts to modernize the program. Your letter urges the Commission to continue funding web hosting as a priority one service within the E-rate program on the basis that web hosting plays a critical role in enabling schools to perform critical educational functions, such as community engagement, emergency communications, digital learning, and parental involvement. I agree that web hosting services are a valuable tool for school districts today and will continue to be after the Commission takes steps to modernize the program. The issue we face is how best to prioritize the limited E-rate dollars so that all schools have the necessary underlying broadband connectivity.

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Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



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WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
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July 22, 2014

The Honorable Steve Cohen
U.S. House of Representatives
2404 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cohen:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for the schools and libraries universal service support program, known as the E-rate program, and the Commission's efforts to modernize the program. Your letter urges the Commission to continue funding web hosting as a priority one service within the E-rate program on the basis that web hosting plays a critical role in enabling schools to perform critical educational functions, such as community engagement, emergency communications, digital learning, and parental involvement. I agree that web hosting services are a valuable tool for school districts today and will continue to be after the Commission takes steps to modernize the program. The issue we face is how best to prioritize the limited E-rate dollars so that all schools have the necessary underlying broadband connectivity.

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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July 22, 2014

The Honorable Eliot Engel
U.S. House of Representatives
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Engel:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for the schools and libraries universal service support program, known as the E-rate program, and the Commission's efforts to modernize the program. Your letter urges the Commission to continue funding web hosting as a priority one service within the E-rate program on the basis that web hosting plays a critical role in enabling schools to perform critical educational functions, such as community engagement, emergency communications, digital learning, and parental involvement. I agree that web hosting services are a valuable tool for school districts today and will continue to be after the Commission takes steps to modernize the program. The issue we face is how best to prioritize the limited E-rate dollars so that all schools have the necessary underlying broadband connectivity.

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
U.S. House of Representatives
2301 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Fattah:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for the schools and libraries universal service support program, known as the E-rate program, and the Commission's efforts to modernize the program. Your letter urges the Commission to continue funding web hosting as a priority one service within the E-rate program on the basis that web hosting plays a critical role in enabling schools to perform critical educational functions, such as community engagement, emergency communications, digital learning, and parental involvement. I agree that web hosting services are a valuable tool for school districts today and will continue to be after the Commission takes steps to modernize the program. The issue we face is how best to prioritize the limited E-rate dollars so that all schools have the necessary underlying broadband connectivity.

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Sincerely,

Tom Wheeler



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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Mike Kelly
U.S. House of Representatives
1519 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kelly:

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Scott Peters
U.S. House of Representatives
2410 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Peters:

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
U.S. House of Representatives
1318 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Pingree:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for the schools and libraries universal service support program, known as the E-rate program, and the Commission's efforts to modernize the program. Your letter urges the Commission to continue funding web hosting as a priority one service within the E-rate program on the basis that web hosting plays a critical role in enabling schools to perform critical educational functions, such as community engagement, emergency communications, digital learning, and parental involvement. I agree that web hosting services are a valuable tool for school districts today and will continue to be after the Commission takes steps to modernize the program. The issue we face is how best to prioritize the limited E-rate dollars so that all schools have the necessary underlying broadband connectivity.

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Sincerely,

Tom Wheeler



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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Carol Shea-Porter
U.S. House of Representatives
1530 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Shea-Porter:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for the schools and libraries universal service support program, known as the E-rate program, and the Commission's efforts to modernize the program. Your letter urges the Commission to continue funding web hosting as a priority one service within the E-rate program on the basis that web hosting plays a critical role in enabling schools to perform critical educational functions, such as community engagement, emergency communications, digital learning, and parental involvement. I agree that web hosting services are a valuable tool for school districts today and will continue to be after the Commission takes steps to modernize the program. The issue we face is how best to prioritize the limited E-rate dollars so that all schools have the necessary underlying broadband connectivity.

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Tom Wheeler



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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Bill Shuster
U.S. House of Representatives
2209 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Shuster:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for the schools and libraries universal service support program, known as the E-rate program, and the Commission's efforts to modernize the program. Your letter urges the Commission to continue funding web hosting as a priority one service within the E-rate program on the basis that web hosting plays a critical role in enabling schools to perform critical educational functions, such as community engagement, emergency communications, digital learning, and parental involvement. I agree that web hosting services are a valuable tool for school districts today and will continue to be after the Commission takes steps to modernize the program. The issue we face is how best to prioritize the limited E-rate dollars so that all schools have the necessary underlying broadband connectivity.

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Tom Wheeler



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OFFICE OF
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July 22, 2014

The Honorable Juan Vargas
U.S. House of Representatives
1605 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Vargas:

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July 22, 2014

The Honorable Peter Visclosky
U.S. House of Representatives
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Visclosky:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for the schools and libraries universal service support program, known as the E-rate program, and the Commission's efforts to modernize the program. Your letter urges the Commission to continue funding web hosting as a priority one service within the E-rate program on the basis that web hosting plays a critical role in enabling schools to perform critical educational functions, such as community engagement, emergency communications, digital learning, and parental involvement. I agree that web hosting services are a valuable tool for school districts today and will continue to be after the Commission takes steps to modernize the program. The issue we face is how best to prioritize the limited E-rate dollars so that all schools have the necessary underlying broadband connectivity.

Prior to the changes we adopted on July 11th, approximately half of the program dollars went to non-broadband activities, including web hosting. In order to maximize funding for the principle goal – broadband access – the new rules are phasing out support for non-broadband services. Schools need this broadband to take advantage of digital learning technologies, and libraries need to provide their patrons with high-speed access to the Internet. I recognize that the E-rate program has previously supported a variety of services, such as web hosting. However, I firmly believe that, in order to meet educational needs, the E-rate program must place a priority on ensuring that every school in America has a high-speed broadband connection and high-speed Wi-Fi in every classroom, and we must allocate funds accordingly.

The *Order* adopted by the Commission at our July Open Meeting takes significant steps to address the Wi-Fi gap in America's schools. In addition to funds already available for this purpose, the *Order* utilizes savings associated with transitioning support from non-broadband services to broadband. Given that 40 percent of classrooms are not currently Wi-Fi-enabled, and nearly two-thirds of schools indicate that they do not have sufficient Wi-Fi capacity to meet their digital learning needs, it is critically important that we focus our limited program resources on connectivity, not just to the school or library, but to the student or library patron.

Thank you again for your interest in this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler